

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Seventeenth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of Seventeenth Essex Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 2.0% (2,256) of these admissions reside in the Seventeenth Essex Representative District. 1% (29) of admissions from the Seventeenth Essex Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Seventeenth Essex Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 79% were male and 21% were female.
- 65% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 51% were white non-Latino, 3% were black non-Latino, 43% were Latino, and 3% were other racial categories.
- 65% were never married, 14% were married, and 21% reported not to be married now.
- 43% had less than high school education, 43% completed high school, and 14% had more than high school education.
- 22% were employed.
- 10% were homeless.
- 28% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Seventeenth Essex Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	32%	49%	9%	5%	2%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2							
Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2003							
Seventeenth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,475	1,682	698	842	818	1,066	632
FY '96	2,380	1,663	718	711	686	1,109	705
FY '97	2,583	1,716	650	732	651	1,210	804
FY '98	2,891	1,759	741	823	494	1,563	1,074
FY '99	2,953	1,755	843	899	542	1,576	1,028
FY '00	3,153	1,906	966	1,001	580	1,652	1,143
FY '01	2,999	1,757	835	934	452	1,571	1,015
FY '02	2,771	1,703	751	811	359	1,526	1,011
FY '03	2,256	1,355	681	678	284	1,147	766

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Seventeenth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

